

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 GSA-02 INT-08 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06

SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-08 L-03 DRC-01 /135 W

----- 102967

R 121817Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1468

UNCLAS LA PAZ 6793

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN BL

SUBJ: GENERAL MANAGER OF COMIBOL COMMENTS ON GSA SALES AND OTHER
TIN SUBJECTS.

1. GENERAL JESUS VIA SOLIZ, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMIBOL, IN
PRESS CONFERENCE ON NOVEMBER 6, STATED GSA TIN SALES ARE UNDER
STUDY, BUT FOR MOMENT DO NOT CONSTITUTE IMMINENT DANGER TO
COMIBOL BECAUSE IT HAS ASSURED TIN MARKETS AT GOOD (CONVENIENTES)
PRICES.

2. ASKED ABOUT COMIBOL'S COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH WILLIAMS
HARVEY AND CAPPER PASS TIN SMELTERS, HE REPLIED THAT NOTHING
CONCRETE IS KNOWN AS WILLIAMS HARVEY'S
TIN SMELTER IS STILL IN OPERATION
ALTHOUGH NOBODY KNOWS FOR HOW LONG. HE SAID COMIBOL DOES NOT
RUN RISK BECAUSE TIN MARKETS ARE ASSURED IN OTHER' COUNTRIES
SUCH AS BRAZIL, MEXICO AND THE SOVIET UNION. HE ADDED THAT INITIAL
DELIVERIES WOULD BE TIN CONCENTRATES INTIMATING THAT MATALIC TIN
DELIVERIES COULD BE ARRANGED LATER.

3. ASKED ABOUT COMIBOL'S MINERS' DEMAND FOR 100 PERCENT
INCREASE IN WAGES, HE REPLIED COMIBOL IS STUDYING ITS FINANCIAL
SITUATION TO FIND HOW MUCH IT CAN AFFORD TO PAY. HE ADDED HIS
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VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT ARE THE SAME AS THOSE OF THE MINMINES

WHO PREVIOUSLY STATED COMIBOL'S WORKERS SHOULD HAVE INCREASE IN WAGES.

4. COMMENT: IN RELATION TO QUESTION ON WILLIAMS HARVEY AND CAPPER PASS SMELTERS, CAPPER PASS SMELTS LOW AND MEDIUM GRADE TIN CONCENTRATES WHICH TECHNICALLY AND COSTWISE IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM WILLIAMS HARVEY SMELTING OF HIGH GRADE TIN CONCENTRATES. ACCORDING COMIBOL ADMINISTRATIVE SOURCES, CAPPER PASS WILLING TO BUILD HIGH GRADE FURNACE UNIT DEPENDING ON ASSURED TIN CONCENTRATE SUPPLY. CAPPER PASS REPORTEDLY RUNNING PILOT PLANT SMELTING TESTS WITH HIGH GRADE CONCENTRATES. TEXAS CITY SMELTER OWNED BY GULF CHEMICAL CORP. IS SENDING REPRESENTATIVES TO BOLIVIA LATE THIS MONTH TO NEGOTIATE WITH COMIBOL ON GUARANTEED MEDIUM AND HIGH GRADE TIN CONCENTRATE SUPPLY WHICH WOULD ENABLE SMELTER TO FINANCE INCREASE OF SMELTING CAPACITY. MINMINES, IN STATEMENT TO PRESS ON NOVEMBER 7, AGREED NO PROBLEMS EXIST IN MARKETING BOLIVIA'S TIN PRODUCTION BUT ADDED THAT DUE TO INTRANSIGENT POSITION OF U. S. GOVERNMENT RELATIVE TO AMOUNTS OF GSA TIN SALES, EFFORTS BY PRESIDENT OF ITC TO NEGOTIATE WITH GSA FAILED.
STEDMAN

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